



## U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Hearing

### Global Efforts to Counter Anti-Semitism

Opening Remarks as prepared for delivery

**Gary Bauer, USCIRF Commissioner:**

Thank you very much, Chair Perkins. According to the working definition put forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, anti-Semitism is “a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.” The U.S. Department of State now uses this working definition.

I am sure that every person in this room can recall a recent devastating attack on Jews both abroad and here at home. Our hearts break for the lives that have been lost or irreversibly impacted by anti-Semitic violence. Beyond these deadly aggressions that make the headlines, Jews around the world are daily subjected to discrimination, name calling, vandalism of synagogues and cemeteries, and hate speech on the internet, among a litany of others. None of these incidents happen in a vacuum; they are a consequence of vicious and false stereotypes about the Jewish community, some of which have been perpetuated for thousands of years. This isn't a left-wing or right-wing issue; anti-Semitism manifests itself on all sides of the political spectrum.

Today, we are focusing on how the United States government and international community can respond to this global uptick in violence and hatred against the Jewish community. I will now turn to my colleague, Vice Chair Gayle Manchin, to highlight some of the major anti-Semitic incidents that occurred over the past year.

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